

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY China/Southeast Asia

SUBJECT Chinese Communist Government
Propaganda Efforts Aimed at
Overseas Chinese

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1. In recent months the Chinese Communist Government (CCG) has become aware of an increasingly antagonistic attitude among overseas Chinese toward the CCG regime on the mainland. The Communists are disturbed over the closer bonds that are being established as a result between overseas Chinese and the Chinese Nationalist Government.¹ In an effort to regain what favor the CCG formerly had among overseas Chinese, the CCG has encouraged Chinese mainland families who have relatives, particularly wives or husbands, residing in parts of Southeast Asia, to propagandize through their letters the good government of the Chinese Communists and the advantages of living under the CCG regime.²
2. The CCG has permitted certain mainland Chinese to go to Hong Kong to visit their relatives from Southeast Asia. Between April and May 1953, approximately 500 mainland Chinese took advantage of the opportunity for such Hong Kong visits.³ Upon arrival in Hong Kong, they are instructed to telegraph their relatives to join them. The mainland Chinese are to tell their relatives how happy and contented the Chinese people are under the Communists. Such instructions are necessarily followed, since the mainlanders must return to China, where he would undoubtedly suffer if it were discovered that he had not followed instructions. There is little chance of a mainland Chinese accompanying his overseas Chinese relative on his return to any Southeast Asian country, since most countries will not grant entry permits to Chinese coming out of Communist China.
3. By means of the Hong Kong visits, the CCG hopes to befriend overseas Chinese and also to gain the gratitude of its own subjects. Families who are permitted such reunions feel sufficiently appreciative to see little harm in spreading some Communist propaganda in return for the opportunity of seeing members of their immediate families whom they may not have seen for sometime and in many cases never expected to see again.⁴

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